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Testing Electronic Transactions for the National Provider Identifier (NPI)

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) currently supports the submission of HIPAA-mandated electronic transactions. DMAS is upgrading its systems to begin using the National Provider Identifier (NPI). The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the schedule for the testing and implementation of electronic transactions containing NPI numbers.

DMAS expects to be ready to support testing the use of NPI numbers in electronic transactions beginning **January 15, 2007**. All submitters of electronic transactions are strongly encouraged to test their electronic transactions with First Health (the DMAS fiscal agent) as soon as possible beginning January 15th.

DMAS will implement the NPI-compliant system in the first quarter of 2007 using a 'dual-use' approach. A Medicaid Memorandum will be sent to notify you of the actual start date of the dual-use period 30 days prior to implementation. Before that date, all transactions will continue to be processed using the current Medicaid ID.

Beginning on the dual-use date in the first quarter of 2007, any transaction containing an NPI number will be processed using the NPI. If an NPI is submitted on an inbound transaction during the NPI dual-use period, the NPI will be returned on its corresponding outbound transaction. If the Medicaid ID is also included on a transaction that has an NPI, it will not be used.

All submitters must be using NPI numbers by May 23, 2007. Effective that date, electronic transactions with legacy, 9-digit Medicaid Provider numbers will be rejected.



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Note that non-healthcare providers that do not qualify for an NPI will be assigned a new 10-digit Atypical Provider ID (API) by DMAS **before the NPI dual-use date in the first quarter, 2007**. The API can be used in the same schedule and method above, except that an API cannot be sent with a current Medicaid number since both numbers are sent in the same field on electronic transactions.

Please notify your service center, software vendor, systems department, or whoever is responsible for the update of your system regarding these impending changes and deadlines. A letter containing this schedule as well as contact information to initiate testing is being sent to all service centers.

Should you have any questions about the implementation of NPI, please e-mail NPI@dmas.virginia.gov. Revised copies of the Trading Partner Transaction Companion Guides for electronic transactions will be posted to <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. If you have specific questions about electronic transactions or the testing schedule, or require additional manuals, please contact the First Health Electronic Commerce Customer Support Center (ECCS). The ECCS Coordinator can be reached via e-mail at EDIVMAP@FHSC.COM or by telephone at **(800) 924-6741** (ask for the EMC Coordinator) between the hours of **8:00 a.m.** and **9:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday.

You can also visit the DMAS website at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/> for frequent updates.